

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 04079 141802Z

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6715

UNCLAS PARIS 04079

NESCO

E.O. 1165: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: YEHUDI MENUHIN ANSWER TO BERNSTEIN CABLE, ON
POSITION REGARDING ISRAEL.

1. UNESCO INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL HAS ASKED US
TO CONVEY FOLLOWING TEXT OF MENUHIN CABLE TO LEONARD
BERNSTEIN, AS PER U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION CABLED
REQUEST.

2. QUOTE: I READ YOUR TELEGRAMME AT OUR SCHEDULED FULL
MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE OF FEBRUARY 8. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
UNANIMOUSLY FEELS THAT THE IMC SHOULD NOT WITHDRAW ALL
PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO AFFILIATED ACTIVITIES AS RE-
QUESTED BY YOU.

I WILL REFER YOU TO MY LETTER AS PRINTED IN THE NEW YORK
TIMES OF JANUARY 19. I FULLY SHARE YOUR FEELING THAT
CERTAIN PRESSURES APPEARED TO DISTORT THE COMMITMENT
OF UNESCO TO HUMANITY . MAY I EXPRESS A HEARFELT PRAYER.
MAY I URGE YOU TO FOCUS AT LEAST A SMALL PART OF YOUR
EFFORTS ON FULFILLING THE UNIVERSAL MEANING OF JERUSALEM
IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHICH THIS UNIQUE COUNTRY MUST BE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 04079 141802Z

TREATED AS A TRUST FOR HUMANITY AT LARGE AND NOT AS THE PROVINCE OF ANY SINGLE POWER. THE TRAGEDY OF JERUSALEM AND OF ITS INNUMERABLE MASSACRES LIED PRECISELY IN THE NON OBSERVANCE OF THIS OVERRIDING CONDITION. I CANNOT BEAR TO THINK OF MY FELLOW JEWS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PERPETUATION AND THE RENEWAL OF THE DISASTROUS HISTORICAL CHAIN OF HOLOCAUSTS. THIS BROADER ATTITUDE IS ESSENTIAL IF JEWISH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE AND ISRAELIS IN PARTICULAR ARE TO COMMAND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY WHICH IS NOW AT A LOW EBB. TO IMPLEMENT THIS ATTITUDE, NO ARCHITECTURE OR ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF ALL THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER CULTURES AND RELIGIONS BELONGING TO JERUSALEM AS AUTHORIZED BY UNESCO.

I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IF ISRAEL ACTED IN THIS MANNER, UNESCO AT THEIR NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN MAY WOULD SUSPEND THE "POLITICIZING RESOLUTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST ISRAEL". HOWEVER, UNLESS THE SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ACCUSATIONS CAN BE RETRACTED AS A RESULT OF ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING JERUSALEM, THE ENLIGHTENED EXECUTIVE OF UNESCO WILL BE OVERRULED AT THE NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1976. THIS WOULD HARDLY REDOUND TO THE ADVANTAGE OR TO THE CREDIT OF ISRAEL; I WOULD EARNESTLY ENTREAT YOU TO THINK MORE OF THE SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL THAN OF PYRRHIC RETRIBUTION AGAINST HER ENEMIES, REAL OR IMAGINARY. YOUR BOYCOTT BETRAYS A BELEAGUERED MENTALITY AND I WOULD URGE ISRAEL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPEN DOOR AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OUR ACTIVITIES. REGARDING REGIONAL GROUPING, EVERYONE AGREES THAT MEMBERSHIP SHOULD DEPEND ESSENTIALLY ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF SPECIFIC MEMBERS BY THE GROUP INVOLVED. ISRAEL WILL BE ADMITTED IN ALL LIKELIHOOD TO THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL COMMUNITY IN TWO YEARS IF THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS PROPOSE THIS. CANADA HAD TO WAIT TEN YEARS. SIGNED: YOUR FRIEND YEHUDI MENUHIN. UNQUOTE.

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